

Message Text

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TAGS: CASC, MX
SUBJ: RESPONSES TO POWERS (SCS) QUESTIONS ON ASSAULTS ON
INTERNATIONAL HIGHWAY, SINALOA.

REF: STATE'S 308963

1. INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE LINES TO MAZATLAN INOPERATIVE.
REFERENCED TELEGRAM RELAYED MAZATLAN BY TELEPHONE FROM EMBASSY.
THERE FOLLOW ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RELAYED:

A. "HAVE POLICE BEEN RECEIVING SALARIES SINCE JULY?" LOCAL POLICE
PAID ON WEEKLY BASIS HAVE BEEN IN ARREARS AS MUCH AS TWO WEEKS,
ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS. CONSUL UNABLE TO COMMENT ON SALARY
PAYMENTS TO CULIACAN POLICE. HOWEVER, CULIACAN, STATE CAPITAL,
MAY BE CURRENT BECAUSE ALL AREA MONIES FUNNELED THERE.

B. "DOES NON-RECEIPT OF SALARY CONSTITUTE REGULAR PROBLEM WITH
POLICE?" MAZATLAN PRESS PERIODICALLY REPORTS THAT MAZATLAN IS
DELINQUENT IN PAYING POLICE AND FURTHER STATES THIS IS ONE OF
THE REASONS FOR THE LOCAL INCREASE IN CRIME. POLICE OFFICIALS
COMPLAIN SALARIES OFFERED ARE TOO LOW TO ATTRACT RIGHT TYPE OF
PERSON. REASON GIVEN FOR CRIME INCREASE IN CULIACAN IS THAT IT
IS NOW DRUG CENTER OF WORLD AND CONTINENTAL "MAFIAS" OPERATE
FROM THERE.

C. "HAVE POLICE FORCES BEEN INCREASED?" MAZATLAN PRESS HAS NOT
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REPORTED INCREASE IN MAZATLAN POLICE FORCE. AS REPORTED IN
MAZATLAN'S A-10, CULIACAN'S POLICE FORCE INCREASED BY 20
AGENTS IN JUNE. CULIACAN POLICE AUTHORITY AUGMENTED BY USE OF
THE ARMY RECENTLY CALLED IN BY GOVERNOR OF SINALOA TO ASSIST
IN PROTECTION OF CITIZENS.

D. "HAS USE OF ARMY TRUCKS PATROLLING THE HIGHWAYS BEEN EFFECTIVE?" PATROLLING BY ARMY OFFICIALS BEGAN DECEMBER 8. SINCE THAT DATE, THREE KNOWN ASSAULTS HAVE OCCURED.

E. "ARE FIGURES IN MAZATLAN'S 284 CORRECT?" FIGURES FOR MAZATLAN'S 284, PARAGRAPH 7 TAKEN FROM DIRECT CONVERSATION WITH MAZATLAN FEDERAL TOURISM DELEGATE WHO STATED THAT CULIACAN AVERAGED 2.7 MURDERS PER DAY, 90 PER MONTH, AND 540 EVERY SIX MONTHS. THESE FIGURES HAVE ALSO APPEARED IN LOCAL PRESS.

F. "ARE FEDERAL POLICE INVOLVED IN CRIME SOLVING?" CONSUL AWARE THAT FEDERAL POLICE INVOLVED IN APPREHENSION CRIMINALS BUT DOES NOT KNOW EXTENT TO WHICH THEY INVOLVED IN CRIME SOLVING. CRIMES OTHER THAN DRUG OFFENSES ARE USUALLY HANDLED BY LOCAL POLICE.
MATTHEWS

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